



Reading Russian Language Roman Catholic Marriage Records from Lithuania and Belarus

"How to" Guide, Intermediate Level: Instruction

February 2023

GOAL

This guide will teach you how to extract information from Roman Catholic birth record written in Russian by understanding column headings and identifying key words and phrases.

You may want to consult the following "How to" Guides before continuing:

- [The Russian Alphabet](#)
- [Deciphering the Handwriting and Understanding the Grammar](#)

HOW TO

Translation of Column Headings

On the next page, you'll find an example of a Catholic marriage record written in Russian along with the translations of the column headings. In this guide, you will learn about each column and the kinds of information and key words you'll find in each column.

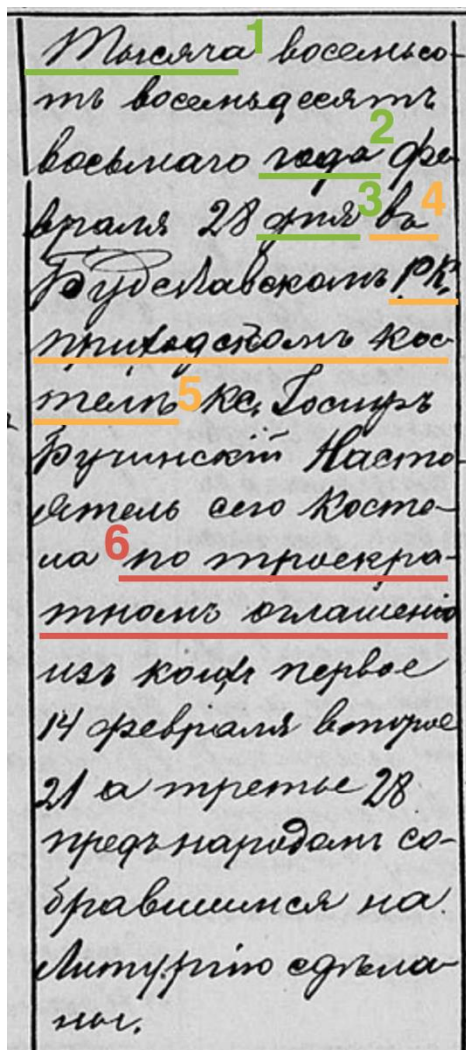
2. MARRIAGE DATE

The date of the marriage was recorded in this column. You may find only a numeral in this column and may need to scan the surrounding entries and/or pages to find the marriage month. The marriage date is also recorded a second time in column 3. The examples below show the months in genitive case, which is most common in these records; however, you may find the months with different grammatical case endings.

Month	Handwritten Example (Russian)	Month	Handwritten Example (Russian)
January января	января	July июля (іюля)	Іюль
February февраля	февраля	August августа	Августа
March марта	Марта	September сентября	Сентября
April апреля	Апреля	October октября	Октября
May мая	Мая	November ноября	Ноября
June июня (іюня)	Іюня	December декабря	Декабря

3. WHEN AND WHERE MARRIED, AND THE DATES OF THE MARRIAGE PROCLAMATIONS

This column contains information about the date and place of the marriage and proclamations. Keep in mind that the paragraph found in this column may vary in format, but the below is a general representation of a typical column entry.



Column 3 Paragraph Outline

One-thousand¹ (year written out) **year**² (month) (day written out) **day**,³ **in**⁴ (name of parish) **Parish Roman-Catholic Church**⁵ (name of priest) of this parish **published three marriage banns**⁶ (dates of marriage banns).

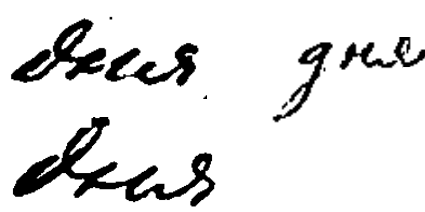
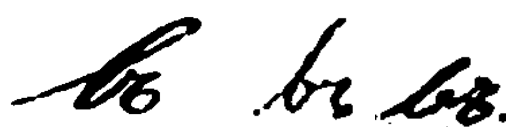
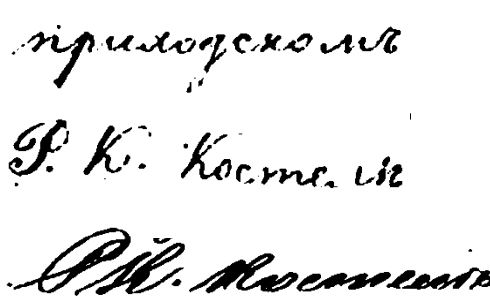
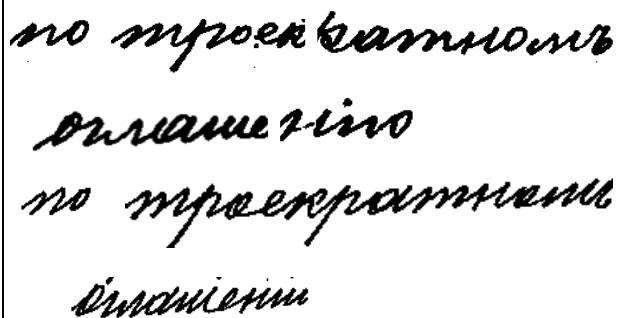
Column 3 Key Words

The following key words indicate the essential genealogical information. The information may come before, after, or between the key words. In some cases, the examples provided may differ in spelling, diacritics, or conjugation of the word. Keep in mind that phrases and even words may be split between two lines. See the additional notes below the table for common variations you might encounter.

Image from:

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSMW-X3PN-J?i=281&cat=1594996>

English	Russian	Information given	Handwritten Examples
1. One thousand	Тысяча	Followed by the rest of the year, written out.	
2. year	года	Followed by the month of baptism.	

English	Russian	Information given	Handwritten Examples
3. day	дня	<i>Preceded by the date of baptism.</i>	
4. in	в(ъ)	<i>Followed by the name of the parish the couple was married in.</i>	
5. Roman Catholic Parish	приходском(ъ) Р.К. Костелъ*	<i>Preceded by the name of the parish the couple was married in.</i>	
6. published three marriage banns	**по троекратном(ъ) оглашению	<i>Followed by the dates of the marriage banns.</i>	

*In some cases, the abbreviated *P.K.* may be spelled out as *Римско-Католическом(ъ)* (Roman Catholic) as shown in the example below. Word order may vary.



**In some cases, the dates of the three published banns are not recorded, it will simply state there were three marriage banns. Other variations for this key word include *трех(ъ)* *предбрачных(ъ) оглашении* as shown below.

трехъ предбрачных оглашении

4. THE NEWLYWEDS AND THEIR SOCIAL ESTATES, NAMES, AGES, AND PARISHES

This column contains information about the bride and groom including social estates, names, ages, and the parish they belong to. Keep in mind that the paragraph found in this column may vary in format, but the below is a general representation of a typical column entry.

Column 4 Paragraph Outline

(**Social estate of groom**)^a (groom's name – may be in genitive case) (**marital status**)^b (age) **years old**¹, **of the village**² (name of village – often in genitive case) **with the**³ (**social estate of bride**)^a (bride's name – typically in instrumental case) (**marital status**)^b (age) **years old**¹, **of the village**² (name of village – often in genitive case) **both of** (name of parish) **parish**.^{4*}

In some cases, after the name of the parish, an additional note is added detailing that no impediments were found and both persons were in mutual consent. This note does not provide any genealogically relevant information.

Column 4 Key Words Variations:

- a. **Social Estate:** In the Russian Empire, each person had a certain place in society, known as their social estate or *soslovie*. The social estate is typically the first part of this column and is followed by the name of the groom. The bride's social estate is often found in instrumental case, so endings may differ. The bride's social estate comes after the groom's residence place/home parish and is followed by the name of the bride. The bride's social estate is not always recorded. Common examples of social estates are found

*a Крестьянинъ Адамъ
Трудовъ b Юноша 25 летъ
2 сядеревни Ревячки 3 с
a Крестьянкою Мар-
гаритною Нагорьскою
б девыцъ 19 летъ сяде-
ревни 2 Асюковни сего
прихода 4 еван, по сего-
данию предварительна-
го строгана съдобна
с торонъ на писки изъ
всехъ изъ отговани
е впретивствѣхъ жбѣра-
хъ соимани и по неом-
крити никакихъ равни
изъ вѣстанихъ вомани
внешнихъ знакамъ бѣ
назученно ст.*

below. Refer to the Russian Genealogical Word List for additional social estates.

English	Russian	Handwritten Example
Peasant (M)	Крестьян(ъ)/ Крестьянин(ъ)	Крестьян Крестьянинъ
Peasant (F)	Крестьянка	Крестьянкою
Petty bourgeois	Мѣщан(ъ)/ Мѣщанин(ъ)	Мѣщанъ Мѣщанина
Nobility	Дворянъ	Дворянъ Дворянина

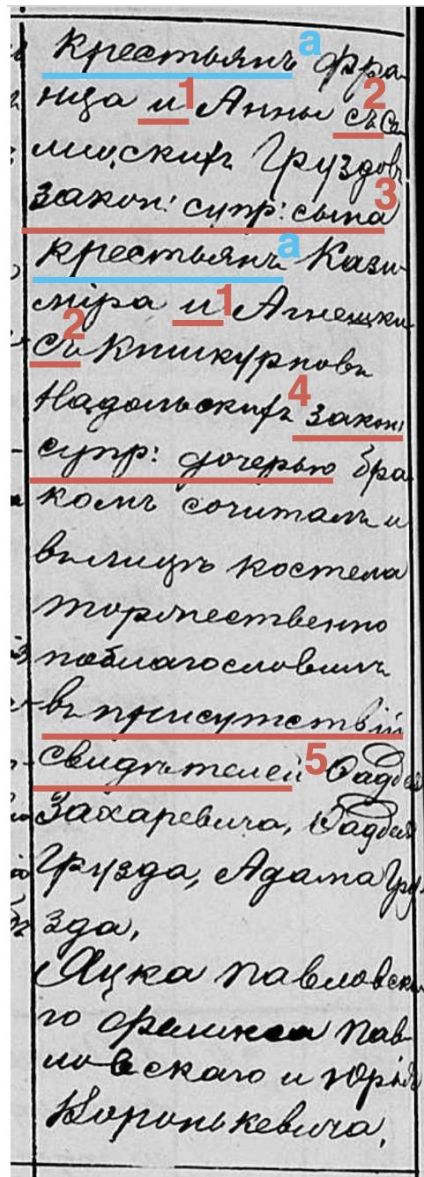
b. Marital Status: The marital status of both the bride and groom are recorded. In some cases, you may find the marital status recorded in genitive case for males and in instrumental case for females.

English	Russian	Handwritten Example
Bachelor	юноша	Юноша Юноши
Maiden	девица (девицею/ою – instrumental case)	девицею девицею
Widower	вдовец (вдовца – genitive case)	вдовца вдовца
Widow	вдова (вдовою – genitive case)	вдовою

Column 4 Key Words Variations:

English	Russian	Information given	Handwritten Examples
1. years old	лет(ъ)	<i>Preceded by the groom or bride's age.</i>	
2. of the village	с(ъ) деревни or из(ъ) деревни	<i>Followed by the name of the village (in genitive case)</i>	
3. with	с(ъ)	<i>Followed by the social state or name of the bride in instrumental case.</i>	
4a. of the parish	прихода	<i>Preceded or followed by the name of the parish.</i>	
4b. of this parish	сего прихода	<i>Implies that they belong to the parish the record was recorded in.</i>	
4c. both of this parish	обоих(ъ) сего прихода	<i>Implies that both the bride and groom belong to the parish the record was recorded in.</i>	

5. THE PARENTS OF THE NEWLYWEDS AND THE WITNESSES

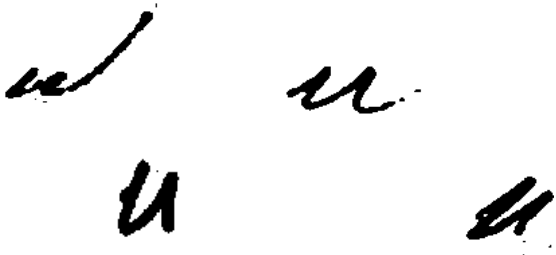
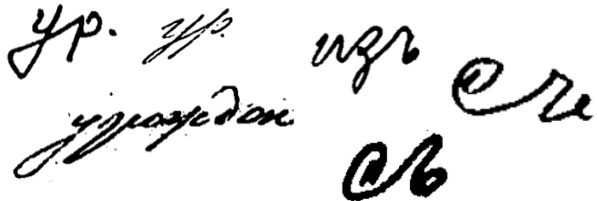
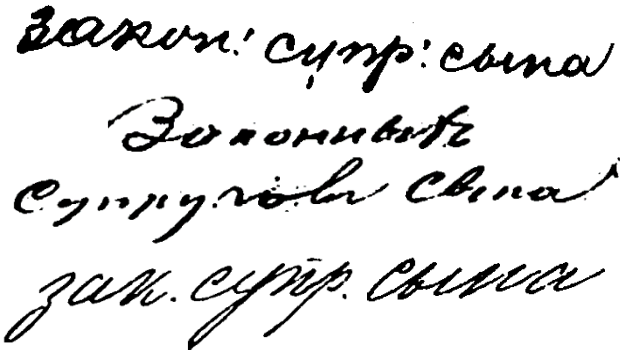
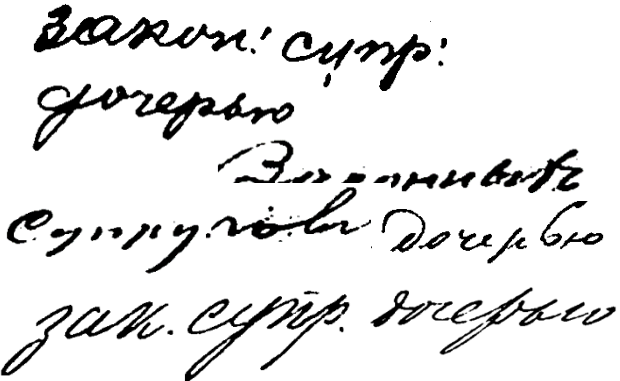
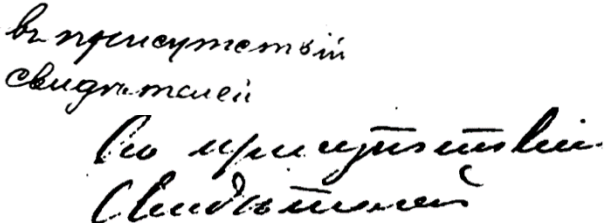


Column 5 Paragraph Outline

(**Social estate of groom's father**)^a (given name of groom's father in genitive case) **and**¹ (given name of groom's mother in genitive case) **nee**² (maiden name of the groom's mother in genitive plural case) **lawfully wedded couple, of the son**³ (**Social estate of groom's mother**)^a (given name of the bride's father in genitive case) **and**¹ (given name of bride's mother in genitive case) **nee**² (maiden name of the bride's mother in genitive plural case) **lawfully wedded couple, of the daughter**⁴ were married**in the presence of witnesses**⁵ (names of the witnesses).

Column 5 Key Words

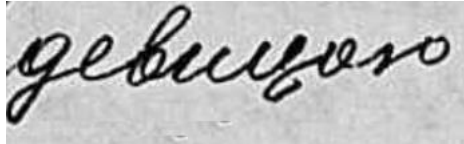
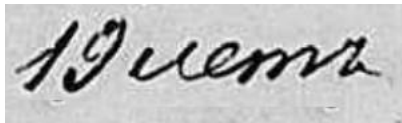
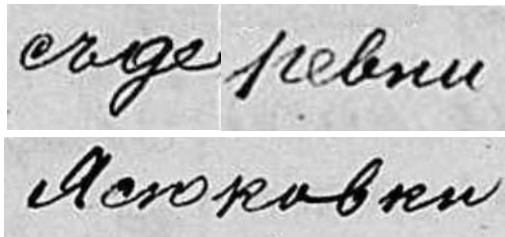
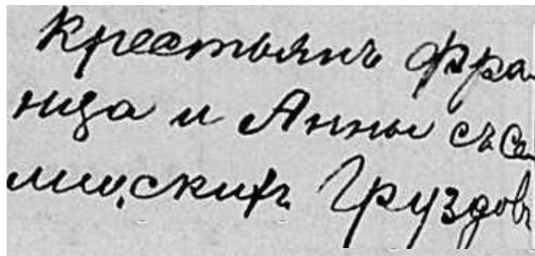
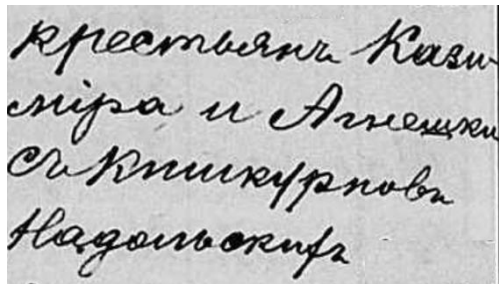
- a. **Social Estate:** See the Social Estate section under **Column 4 Key Words Variations** in this "How to" Guide.

English	Russian	Information given	Handwritten Examples
1. and	и	<i>Preceded by the name of the father and followed by the name of the mother.</i>	
2. nee	с(ъ) из(ъ) ур. урож. урожден.	<i>Followed by the maiden name of the mother.</i>	
3. lawfully wedded couple, of the son (the lawfully wedded parents of the son)	законных супрогов(ъ): сына закон. супр.: сына зак. супр.: сына	<i>Preceded by information about the groom's parents and followed by information about the bride's parents</i>	
4. lawfully wedded couple, of the daughter (the lawfully wedded parents of the daughter)	законных супрогов(ъ): дочерью закон. супр.: дочерью зак. супр.: дочерью	<i>Preceded by information about the bride's parents.</i>	
5. in the presence of witnesses	в присутствии свидѣтелей	<i>Followed by the names of the witnesses.</i>	

PRACTICE

Now that we have learned about the key words, let's practice reading the record above by extracting the important genealogical details.

What was the marriage date?	28 February 1888	
Where did the marriage take place?	Budslav Roman Catholic Parish (now Budslaŭ, Belarus)	
What was the name of the groom? What was his social status?	Adam Gruzd, peasant	
What was the groom's marital status?	Bachelor	
How old was the groom?	25 years old	
What village was the groom from?	Revyachka	
What was the name of the bride? What was her social status?	Magdalena Nadolska, peasant	

What was the bride's marital status?	Maiden	
How old was the bride?	19 years old	
What village was the bride from?	Yasiukovka	
Who were the groom's parents?	The peasant Franz Gruzd and Anna nee Selitska	
Who were the bride's parents?	The peasant Kazimir Nadolski and Agnieszka nee Kishkurp	

ACTIVITY

Now, test your skills you have learned in this “How to” Guide. The Activity is a way to check your knowledge and let you know you’ve mastered the Guide! Click [here](#) to try out the Activity.